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BUNGAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year, 1953


Medical Officer of Health. Dr. J.B. Kershaw, MB., MRCS., DPH.

Sanitary Inspector. A.J. Cooper Esq.



Council Offices,  
12, Earsham Street,  
Bungay,  
Suffolk.

14th September, 1954.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Bungay Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

For the first nine months of the year the town was free from any outbreak of serious infectious disease; but in the autumn there was an outbreak of Whooping cough, to be followed in the Spring of the current year by a large epidemic of measles. It will be recalled that the notifications of infectious diseases had been very low for some years. The result of such a period of freedom from infection is to increase the number of children in a community who have had little contact with disease. The introduction of a few active cases into such a community is therefore going to be followed by a large outbreak.

With two such highly infectious diseases as measles and whooping cough the main policy should be to endeavour to "protect" the very young children from their older fellows and thereby "put off" the illness until as late an age as possible.

The general and vital statistics are quite favourable and the population does not fluctuate greatly.

It will be noted that there was an increase over the year of six persons on the tuberculosis register. Four of the additions were persons from an area outside the County and three of these were members of one family. Though modern methods of treatment are so effective in cases of tuberculosis, the numbers on registers will not be reduced rapidly for several reasons.

- 1) More efficient means of diagnosis is leading to the diagnosis of more early cases.
- 2) It is customary to keep under observation for a lengthy period many cases who, to all intents and purposes, have made a complete recovery, and many of these are in full employment.
- 3) The eastern strip of East Suffolk is considered to be a healthy district for chest cases and numbers of tuberculosis cases move to this area.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector and I spent a considerable amount of time inspecting private houses in the town. Reports were made to the Housing & Health Committee and our recommendations were approved. In this way a list was compiled of houses which we did not consider should be re-let as family dwellings after the expiration of their present tenancies. In connection with housing the Council was again urged not to consider any further letting of the former Prisoner of War huts to new tenants. In the course of our inspections the need for a number of new old persons dwellings near the centre of the town became apparent. The committee agreed with our findings.

In view of the new works on Outney Common observation of the Councils main water supply as received by consumers was continued. Bacteriological reports of samples remained satisfactory. In addition, it was felt that the source of the water should be further safe guarded by medically checking all personnel employed by the Contractor on the water-bearing area. During 1953, blood samples of 10 men thus employed were sent to the Norwich Public Health Laboratory for examination.

This will be my last annual report to the Council. I wish to thank the Council and, in particular, the Chairman and members of the Housing & Health Committee for their courtesy and support at all times

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J.B. Kershaw.

Medical Officer of Health.

## General Statistics.

Area.	2393 acres	(2393)
Registrar Generals estimate of population (mid 1953)	3497	(3479)
No. of inhabited houses	1216	(1195)
Rateable Value	£18481	(£18391)
Product of penny rate. (1952 figures in parentheses)	£74/15/-	(£74)

## Vital Statistics.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births.	24	23	47
(Illegitimate)	( - )	( 2 )	( 2 )

Birth rate per 1,000 population. 13.4  
(England and Wales) (15.5)  
(comparability factor, 1.10)

Still Births Nil.

Maternal Mortality. Nil.

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate - Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.  
per 1,000 live births, 21.3  
(England and Wales) (26.8)

## Causes of Infant Death.

Toxaemia due to bronchitis caused by staphylococcus aureus.  
(Certified after Coroners post-mortem) 1.

## Deaths (all causes)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	17	24	41
(1952)	(23)	(23)	(51)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.7  
(England and Wales) (11.4)  
(Comparability factor .84)

## Causes of Death.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (all forms)	-	-	-
Malignant Disease of Stomach	-	2	2
Malignant Disease of Lung	-	-	-
Malignant Disease of Breast	-	2	2
Other Malignant Disease	2	3	5
Lesions of the blood vessels of the nervous system.	-	5	5
Coronary Heart Disease	5	2	7
Other Heart disease	2	5	7
Other Circulatory disease	1	2	3
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach	1	-	1
Other defined and ill - defined diseases.	3	1	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-
	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>41</u>



Comparative Statistics for the last 3 years.

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Infant Deaths</u>
1951	3483	53	43	-
1952	3479	56	51	2
1953	3497	47	41	1

Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever.	2	5	7
Whooping Cough	27	25	52
Measles	4	-	4
Acute Pneumonia	3	4	7
Malaria	1	-	1

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Number of cases on register at beginning of year	11	2	8	7	28
Number of cases added during the year	2	1	4	1	8
Number removed during the year	-	-	1	1	2
Number of cases on register at end of year	13	3	11	7	34

Cases added to the register:-

New notifications	4
Removal to Bungay from other areas	4
	<u>8</u>

Cases removed from the register:-

Died *	2
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\* These deaths occurred during December, 1952 and were included in the 1952 statistics of deaths from all causes.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during 1953.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

In no case was it found necessary to take action under this section during 1953.

Milk Production

Sampling of the milk from the herds of producers was undertaken by the County Council's Sanitary Inspector as in previous years. In two cases milk samples were found to contain brucella organisms. As, in both cases, the milk was already being sent for pasteurisation before sale to the consumer, no formal action was taken under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949; but the farmers were urged against allowing their families or those of their employees to drink the milk in the raw state.

Mass Radiography.

In January 1953 the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board (Norwich) Mass Radiography Unit conducted a survey in Bungay. Members of the public from Bungay and the surrounding district were invited to volunteer for chest examination.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
No. of Miniature X-ray Examinations.	956	546	1502
No. of cases of Pulmonary T.B. found	-	-	-
No. of cases requiring chest-clinic observation.	1	-	1
Previously diagnosed cases.	-	4	4

Other diseases discovered.

Chronic bronchitis.	4
Lobar Pneumonia	1
Atypical Pneumonia	1
Bronchiectasis	1
Pneumokoniosis	1
Basal Fibrosis	13
Cardiovascular lesions (acquired)	8

Dr. J.B. Kershaw.

14th Sept. 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bungay Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1953:-

Factory Acts, 1937 and 1948

Number on register.

Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,6 are) non-  
to be enforced by the local authority. ) power. 2

Factories in which section 7 is )Power  
enforced by the local authority.) 23

Total 25

One notice under section 9 of this act was served and immediately complied with.

Periodical inspection of factories were carried out by myself and also by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Factory Act, section 34.

The means of escape in case of fire at one factory were being improved to obtain the necessary certificate from this authority.

Petroleum (consolidation) Act 1928 and Cellulose Solutions Regulations 1934, Number 10.

One notice under this act was served and immediately complied with.

Water Supply

Analyst. Messrs Lincolne, Sutton & Wood,  
Clarence House,  
6, Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

Samples of water were taken frequently from various properties in the town and were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis. All samples were certified HIGHLY SATISFACTORY. A typical analysis report is herewith appended. Cert. No. 892 E.

Sample received from:- Messrs May, Gurney & Co. Ltd., Trowse.

Marked:- Shallow well, Outney Common, Per Bungay U.D.C.

Date received:- 30th November, 1953.

Appearance when received:- Clear.

Nature of deposit:- Nil.

Colour:- Nil. Odour:- Nil.

Reaction:- Pract. Neutral. PH:- 6.6

Taste:- Satisfactory.

Results of chemical analysis in parts per million.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen:- 0.01  
Albuminoid Nitrogen:- 0.06  
Nitrate Nitrogen:- Nil.  
Nitrite Nitrogen:- Nil.  
Chlorine as chlorides:- 62  
Oxygen absorbed ( 4 hrs. 27° C.): - 0.75

Hardness as CaCO<sub>3</sub>:  
Total:- 300  
Carbonate (Temporary) 205  
Non Carbonate (Permanent) 95



Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$ :-	205
Free carbon dioxide	33.0
Total solids (at 180° C.)	650
Iron (total)	Nil.
Metals in solution.	Nil

#### Bacteriological results.

Number of colonies developing per million in 48 hours at 37° C. 5.  
 Presumptive coliform organisms - probable number per 100 ml:- 0.  
 B. Coli Type 1 ("FQCCAL) absent.

#### Opinion.

The organic quality of this water is good and its bacteriological condition is highly satisfactory. The free carbonic acid in the water is more than is required to balance the chalk in solution so that the reaction of the water is just on the acid side of neutrality. This water may be found to have some corrosive action on metals, though it is not to be regarded as seriously aggressive in this respect. The hardness is moderate (approximately 21 Clark), About two thirds of the hardness being temporary. Iron and other metals appear to be absent. The clarity, odour and taste are all satisfactory and in our opinion this water is very suitable for drinking and for use as a public supply, subject to the reservation about the possibility of corrosive action as noted above.

Signed Eric C. Wood, D.A.R.C.S.  
 R.R.I.C.  
 for Lincolne Sutton & Wood.

Properties which receive piped supply into house.	95%
Properties which receive supply by stand pipe.	4%
Properties without supply	1%

#### Water Treatment

Chlorination of the water supply is effected by the injection of liquid chlorine at the source, Outney Common water works. The liquid chlorine is injected at the rate of .03 lbs to each 10,000 gallons of water pumped.

There was no shortage of supply at the source.

The amount of water pumped during year ending 31st December, 1953  
 55,480,000 galls.

Daily average consumption, all purposes:- 152,000 galls.

Total rainfall during year, 1953. 18.67 inches.

Highest monthly rainfall. May, 1953. 2.37 inches.

#### Bulk supplies.

Water was supplied in bulk to parishes within the Wainford and Loddon Rural District Councils.

Extensive works were proceeding throughout the year with the object of increasing the yield at the headworks, Outney Common, in order to afford a direct bulk supply to five parishes within the Loddon Rural District.

Extensions to the water mains were connected to provide a supply to the St. Mary's Field Site development.



## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The reconstruction of the disposal works was completed during 1953 and except for minor teething troubles, operated satisfactorily. It was felt that a period in which the new plant would settle down, should be given before a truly indicative sample of the effluent could be taken.

9" sewer and surface water drains were extended to accomodate the St. Mary's Field development scheme.

There are 34 properties within the Urban District which are without main drainage. These properties are provided with pail closets which are emptied by Council scavenging staff each Wednesday. All the forementioned properties are either situated too low for connection to sewer mains, or are not within reasonable distance to warrant the expense of connection.

## Shops Act 1950. Section 38.

There are 90 shops within the Urban District, and during 1953 the responsibility for inspections under this act were delegated to the Local authority.

By the end of this year I had inspected all 90 shops and had ascertained which premises were or were not equipped to comply with the requirements of this act. Six certificates of exemption, in respect of certain premises, were issued by the Council.

Shops found to be without adequate Sanitary Conveniences	7
" " " " " " washing facilities	6
" " " " " " Heating arrangements	5.

Notices to remedy these defects were being served.

Periodical inspection of shops, stalls, vehicles, restaurant and Hotel Kitchens, and places where food is being prepared, have in all cases given satisfaction as to the standard of cleanliness. I am still however much concerned at the offensive odour, more particularly during the warm weather, which emanates from the fish stall in the Market Place, to the annoyance of residents of the Town and Shopkeepers in the vicinity in particular.

## Condemned Foods.

During the year it was found necessary to condemn the following foods as unfit for consumption:-

Tinned foods.	Meat.	Luncheon Meat.	115
		Jellied veal	1
		Corned beaf	1
		Stewed steak	11
		Ox Tongue	1
	Fish	Salmon	1
	Fruit	Strawberries in	
		syrup	24
		Pears	9
		Peaches	13
		Pineapple	2
		Milk.	21

## Meat

There were no cattle or sheep killed in Bungay during 1953; but occasionally pigs were killed for private consumers.

Meat for local butchers was brought into the town from the distributors at Lowestoft and Beccles and was inspected before despatch.

## Meat Condemned

Details of meat inspected and condemned during the year 1953 are as follows:-

		<u>Pork.</u>	<u>Beef.</u>	<u>Mutton</u>
Home Killed.	Total weight of parts of carcasses and organs condemned.	265 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	84 lbs.	10 lbs.
Imported.	do		12 lbs.	

## Milk.

Details of milk inspections are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

## Ice Cream.

There are seventeen premises in the town registered for the sale of ice cream, two of which are manufacturers, and these conform in all respects to the requirements under the Heat Treatment regulations, 1947 - 48. The remaining fifteen premises are concerned with the sale only of pre-packed blocks which are delivered into the town by bulk manufacturers. Routine visits have been made to retailers of ice cream and I am satisfied that these preparations are hygenically served.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The fulfilment of the Council's responsibility under this act is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. One Rodent Operator is employed part time. Sewer disinfection is carried out at six monthly intervals, by a reciprocal assistance arrangement between myself and the Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Beccles. The condition in sewers has progressively improved and the degree of infestation is minor. During the year 41 infestations were delt with on private property and 9 at business premises. The Council's refuse tip at Ollands Plantation was treated by the Rodent Operator at monthly intervals.

## Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 etc. Repair of unfit houses.

Number of houses inspected at invitation of the tenant.	11
Number of notices served upon the owners	11
Number of notices complied with	11

## Public Health Act, 1936 Section 58.

Demolition of one warehouse, Quaves Lane, was effected.  
Demolition of two shops in Bridge Street was effected.  
Demolition of three houses, Turnstile Lane was effected.

## Housing Act 1949.

No action was taken in awarding grants for the improvement or conversion of houses.

## Housing.

Number of houses built under contract for the U.D.C.	-
" " Flats " " " " " "	32
" " Houses built by private enterprise.	2
Building programme of the U.D.C. for 1954.	42 houses
" " " private enterprise, 1954.	8 flats.
	4 houses.

Number of houses owned by the Council to date.	275
" " prefabs " " " " " "	20
" " flats " " " " " "	51
" " Hutments hired " " " "	6
	<hr/>
	352
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Total number of dwellings within the Urban District	1,216

I wish to conclude my report with an expression of appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Housing & Health Committee have always afforded me, and to thank the Clerk of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health for their advice and ready assistance at all times.

I have the Honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A.J. Cooper.  
Sanitary Inspector.

14th September, 1954.

